

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are amended, claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 9-82 are added; as a result, claims 2-82 are now pending in this application.

Claims 2-8 are rewritten by expressly rewriting the subject matter of the respective parent claims into the rewritten claims. These claims are not amended due to a rejection based on patentability. The rewriting of these claims does not narrow the scope of the claims.

In the Office Action Summary, Checkbox 10 is marked stating, "The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2004 is/are:" but neither the "a) accepted" nor the "b) objected to by the Examiner" checkboxes have been marked. Applicant respectfully requests clarification of this matter.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pathak et al. (U.S. 4,223,394). Claim 1 is cancelled, so the rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-8 are rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant further submits that claims 9-15 depend from rewritten claim 2, claims 16-22 depend from rewritten claim 3, claims 23-29 depend from rewritten claim 4, claims 30-37 depend from rewritten claim 5, claims 38-44 depend from rewritten claim 6, claims 45-62 depend from rewritten claim 7, and claims 63-80 depend from rewritten claim 8. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 9-80.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9587 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

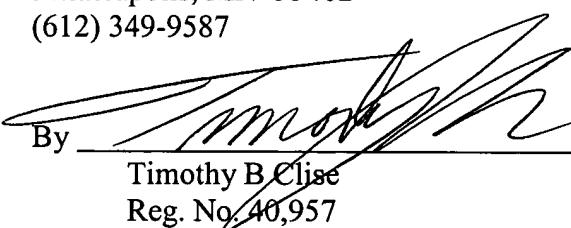
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By his Representatives,

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Date

3 Nov. '04

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 3 day of November, 2004.

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